

THE FLY PAPERS

Posts from the blog
“The X-Cop Fly Company”

VOLUME II: 2010, JANUARY THROUGH JUNE

by Daniel R. Quintiliani

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January 17, 2011

INTRODUCTION

Volume II of *The Fly Papers* contains the contents of the blog “X-Cop Fly Company” from January 2010 through June 2010.

This blog started in late June of 2009 under the name “Azz Pizz Institute”, and had a juvenile “NSFW humor” theme. The “Azz Pizz Institute” was a nickname I had previously used on Usenet newsgroups, and the blog was actually a subdomain of an archive of interesting files.

Initially I had chosen the name “DanQRules.com” for the domain, as my for-pay e-mail provider added Web hosting as a benefit, and I could not think of a suitable domain name.

Later on I recalled a situation from my childhood, 2nd grade (about 1992) in which the family computer was frequented by brown gnats. I nicknamed them “x-cop flies” for an unknown reason, likely deriving from the MS-DOS command “XCOPY” and/or a “boy's club” situation going on at school.

“XCopFly.com” was registered, as I began work on my next endeavor.

I decided to create a TI-Calculator development group, creating simple text-based programs for the TI-83+/84+(SE), which as a format would be similar to the old MS-DOS games I played in those days.

The blog for “The X-Cop Fly Company” would be the successor to the Azz Pizz Institute, with less of a focus on humor. The organization would be called The X-Cop Fly Company.

Nobody appeared to be interested in “joining”, as new calculator models from Texas Instruments were gaining acceptance, and I was unhappy with the constraints of TI-BASIC as well as legal actions taken by Texas Instruments under the guise of copyright protection.

So the X-Cop Fly Company became the name of my blog (as well as my alias). It now included not just humor, but current events, as well as a personal journal.

Unable to settle on a copyright policy, initially I blocked my blog from the Internet Archive and stayed silent on the issue. I had grown angry in the past with the Free Software Foundation and Creative Commons, and felt unsafe in the hands of their license agreements, as it was quickly becoming apparent from the 2006 GPLv3 that your work was irrevocably subject to the will of now-moneyed 501(c)3 nonprofits and their legal departments rather than the public at large.

On May 15, 2010, I then decided to do something rare – release most of what I could into the public domain. Later on I updated the site's “robots.txt” file to enable the Internet Archive's automatic spidering of my site.

In October 2010, however, I discovered that Creative Commons had instituted a waiver, entitled CC0, which not only waived the copyright but so-called “related rights” as well, and was not specific to US copyright law. If any of these rights could not be waived in any jurisdiction, a “public license fallback” existed which put the waivers in the format of a license. If this license wouldn't work, one would waive the right to sue over these issues.

I began applying the Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication, rather than simply saying “public domain”, to the portions I would otherwise release into the public domain. I could not apply CC0 to material I previously released into the public domain, so I simply stated that the additional waivers applied, and if waiving the copyright was not possible at the time, the Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication would apply in its entirety.

At some point I decided it would be great to re-package these blog posts into a book, replacing all copyrighted material with brief summaries, and uploading the book to the Internet Archive.

I later decided to do this in “volumes” due to the amount of posts that had accumulated.

As I began work on the first volume, which would consist of all posts in 2009 (including the Azz Pizz Institute posts), I noticed something interesting – this was *history*. The worldwide economic crises of the past few years were frequently discussed as they happened, as well as the controversial past and background of President Barack Obama, the controversial seizures of various companies by Obama and his allies in Congress, regulatory measures such as “Obamacare”, the rise of the Tea Party movement, among other past and current events, including Hollywood trends and Internet fads. In addition, this was not just about history, but also *culture* – the spirit of the times.

This book contains all posts from the X-Cop Fly Company from the first half of 2010 (January through June) which have not been deleted as of the date of this publication. Material copyrighted by myself and others has been removed and replaced with summaries if needed (summaries are represented as this: *[example]*). As a copyrightable derivative work, I can dedicate this book in its entirety to the public domain according to the Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication. A copy of this waiver (public domain) is included at the end of this book. Note that the book makes frequent references to trademarks - these trademarks belong to their respective owners, who are not affiliated with this book or its author.

I hope this work proves itself enjoyable to many and will encourage further expansion of the public domain and a loosening of copyright laws and lessening of copyright terms around the world. I look forward to releasing the rest of the 2010 material.

Daniel R. Quintiliani (a.k.a. “The X-Cop Fly Company”, f.k.a. “The Azz Pizz Institute”)
January 17, 2011

"Happy Happy Joy Joy" Actually Consists of Burl Ives (Snowman in Rudolph) Quotes

2010-01-12 10:44:58 PM

Burl Ives, better known as the snowman in Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, was also a children's singer and actor whose quotes are repackaged in Ren & Stimpy's "Happy Happy Joy Joy" under the name "Stinky Whizzleteats"

This YouTube video *[link]*, linked to by Ren & Stimpy creator John K's blog *[link]*, shows them side by side.

You may have also noticed that the calculator section was separated again. I plan on doing more programs under the X-Cop name, notably one of those quasi-RPG games popular with calculators where you buy gear and fight enemies (Hacker RPG, etc.). I want a medieval one which doesn't suck or isn't a memory hog. But right now I'm too much of a lazy ass. Stay tuned!

Bill Clinton Sings "Imagine"

2010-01-15 2:58:42 PM

Yes it's true, former President Clinton sings John Lennon's "Imagine" *[link]* with an Israeli singer and a choir of 40 Israeli children and 40 Arab children in 2003:

[Video embedded here]

Nostalgia hurts.

2010-01-25 2:46:24 AM

I cannot stop thinking lately about this one time in my life, just before and at the beginning of my college education.

I have been obsessed with music and TV shows from that time lately, as well as pre-9/11 politics and society - these are all for some reason stuck in my mind as if it was a better time. I don't remember much of that time, as it was almost 10 years ago, but I always remember it being horrible. I'm guessing, and just my guess, that it's the hopes of the better life which would have awaited me upon finishing my education.

It's not thinking about the past or unrealized hopes that's hurting me, it hurts me that I'm not there right now.

Breathe...

2010-01-26 12:22:35 AM

There's a song I like to listen to called "Please" by Nine Inch Nails. The chorus comes in with a sharp buzz (including his screechy voice), like a surge of electricity. Every time I hear it, I can feel that I'm inhaling my second wind on a day in high school when I was heavily sleep deprived. There is no way of knowing anything about that day, or even if the memory consists of multiple days, of even if the song was stuck in my head that day or days. But it's like I'm transported back there, in the halls, heavily sleep deprived[.]

Here is a professional-quality fan-made music video of the song. [\[link\]](#) Yes, we Nine Inch Nails fans can get pretty obsessive. Check out ThisOneIsOnUs.org [\[link\]](#) to see the extent we go to.

[Embedded fan-made music video for NIN's "Breathe", inspired by Adam Jones' Tool videos]

Here's another fan video of their latest song "Discipline" [\[link\]](#). The video calls itself the "official video" when there is none. It's actually an animated CGI cartoon which features the band members as the Village People! Yes, I shit you not. Complete with costumes, a pink guitar, a disco ball, a scrolling pink marquee as a background, and a surprise ending! Watch it for yourself:

[Embedded video]

Just swatted the fly!

2010-01-28 4:10:56 AM

Some people told me that they were grossed out by the image of the brown gnat. So I made my own quick sketch of a gnat using pastel and charcoal pencil. You can see it in the upper right hand corner where the real-life X-Cop Fly photo used to be.

[The original "gross" photo in question was a macro photo of gnat taken from Wikimedia Commons. It was at the top-right corner of the screen until it was replaced with a self-made logo. Both images are copyrighted and not included in this book.]

Also removed "Pages" from the sidebar, it's unnecessary when the same thing is at the top.

Repeal Freedom of Speech - it's 230 years old!

2010-02-01 4:56:23 PM

This video *[link]* is scary. A conspiracy theorist goes around the streets of California trying to get signatures for a "Repeal the 1st Amendment" petition. He markets the 1st Amendment as outdated and tells people signing that a repeal will prevent "hate speech" and will ban criticism of the President. No joke! Watch the video *[link]*:

[video embedded here]

Amazing HD Quality Evanescence Video

2010-02-01 5:33:25 PM

I know it is unusual to pick out a single music video in the modern HD world, but I was just way too impressed by the HD quality on Evanescence's "Good Enough" video *[link to video]* as uploaded by AmyLeeRocks4EverHD *[link to user's account page]*:

[video embedded]

BBSpot Quizzes

2010-02-02 5:27:00 PM

These quizzes have been around for ages, but I haven't been to BBSpot *[link]* since way before xcofly.com came into existence. So I took a bunch of these quizzes again.

[results for several quizzes embedded here]

Dirty Disney Isn't Subliminal Anymore (NSFW)

2010-02-03 9:03:25 PM

From Failblog *[link]* (can't verify this on Google News so it might be doctored):

[Embedded video – technical difficulties cause the Disney Channel's pay-per-view to offer porn movies]

knowing you had so many chances years ago

2010-02-07 4:28:27 AM

unfortunately you made some stupid decisions, were incredibly gullible, then paid for it for the rest of your life. you got angry at all the wrong people, and eventually all the others just couldn't support you because then they looked bad.

this was ten years ago. for the next 5 years you did your best to undo the disaster you had just come out of, you made quite some progress, but had a new hurdle this time to deal with - apathy. you tried different things, making yourself look different to different people, they just happened to all fail.

then people suggested ideas for you to clean things up, but while they were really getting well, ~10 years of mismanagement finally unleashed itself.

at the same time you were still working on bringing yourself (i.e. what you looked like to other people) up to par in other situations. but what you didn't realize was that all those attempts were part of a single combined failure. and this time you paid an even larger price.

what troubles you now is the fact that the one thing that was there for you, when the school bully bothered you, when nobody would call you, or invite you here or there, when your professors didn't like your politics, is now being turned against you. ruthless, sadistic, sociopathic (and obviously greedy) criminal thugs are trying to shut you out, silence you, and no matter where you move to get away from them, they shut off that opportunity fast, and more and more powerful threats to us are developed with every newspiece promoting these criminal acts.

whatever happened to the culture you created from nothing but your hands and materials from the earth? whatever happened to the values and traditions you once embraced? does it really take that much to become a soulless person and destroy everything precious to people, including both your own culture and (to some extent) the cultures of others? and why do so many of us accept what you are doing, simply because you use profitable moneymaking buzzwords look like a political ideology which you publicly and openly violate, which we know fully and still publicly and openly accept what you do?

there is no going back. there is no way to have the same chances i failed last time come back for me to throw new things at. there is only one thing to do. and that is what i have been failing at for decades. wait for something, try, and pray you don't fail this time...

[First three sentences of disclaimer aired before the TV show Beavis & Butthead]

2010-02-08 5:31:21 PM

Watch this guy who dared to "copy" the show: *[link]*

[video embedded here featuring man attempting to sit on a copy machine and "copy his butt," as was done on a famous episode of Beavis & Butthead, but instead falling and breaking the copy machine.]

90s gay dance weirdness (NSFW)

2010-02-08 6:04:47 PM

From the peak of the AIDS crisis, as featured on Beavis & Butthead, "La Tour" has a public service message for you:

[Music video for the song "People Are Still Having Sex" by La Tour]

"Styxette"'s Last Song

2010-02-13 1:08:03 PM

Apparently while recording the album "Show Me The Way" was on, they hired a new Bon Jovi-like singer *[Glen Burtnik]* and recorded a dance song which doesn't sound anything remotely like Styx.
[link]

[Music video for the song "Love Is The Ritual" by Styx]

By Metallica's Favorite Band

2010-02-13 1:14:52 PM

"Borrowed Time" by the band Diamond Head: *[link & music video embedded below]*

A Special Valentine's Day Video

2010-02-13 1:24:40 PM

Here is a Valentine's Day treat for you: *[link]*

[Embedded video – clip of a Jerry Springer episode called "Uncle Pimp & Cupid" featuring a woman who fell in love with and had an affair with a singing telegram dressed as Cupid. After the woman tells her story, Cupid and the boyfriend who hired him come out and fight, with Cupid occasionally breaking out into song during the fight.]

Something I discovered a long time ago but don't think I posted until today

2010-02-15 9:21:59 PM

I most likely didn't post this here before, as it doesn't turn up in a search. But I discovered this goofy act of plagiarism a long time ago:

[Two videos embedded here - Rick Springfield's 1981 song "Jessie's Girl" is embedded above the "Always Coca-Cola" commercial from 1993, which both sound unusually similar...]

Beet Impersonators (Doug's "The Beets" With Real People)

2010-02-18 10:02:25 PM

If you're as old as me, you remember the 1990s Nickelodeon cartoon Doug. The children in the show listened to a music group "The Beets", a hybrid of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Ramones, and The Clash.

Here are some real people dressing up like The Beets and singing *[link]* to their songs "I Need Mo' Allowance" and "Killer Tofu":

[embedded video]

7 Sites To Make Up For Wikipedia's Shrinking Article Count

2010-02-19 3:43:27 PM

Wikipedia's mission of becoming an Internet-based user-edited encyclopedia is looking pretty grim, as its article count is shrinking by the bulk. They give you the deletion page to look at, where you can see that the decisions are made by a democratic process run by obvious teenagers. If you thought Wikipedia was inaccurate before, it's quickly becoming an encyclopedia solely for registered Wikipedia users, not an encyclopedia for the general public.

Here are some Web sites to make up for the credibility Wikipedia had their chance of having:

1. Urban Dictionary Need to know the definition of a word or phrase which isn't notable (or family-friendly) enough for Wikipedia? Urban Dictionary has very little prohibitions on submitted content, and rule violations frequently get past the volunteer "editors" (they log on to a chat room and vote on submissions in real time.) Visit UrbanDictionary.com *[link]* and see the English language taken to its fullest extent.

2. The Phrase Finder If you want a step up from Urban Dictionary, check out The Phrase Finder (www.phrases.org.uk *[link]*) for detailed historical and background information on popular phrases. Visit The Phrase Finder to get the whole story. *[link]*

3. Deletionpedia This site contains, as of the time of this writing, "63,099 pages which have been deleted from the English-language Wikipedia" and the justification for their deletion. A Wikipedia article on Deletionpedia was almost deleted prior to the mainstream press picking up this censorship attempt [\[link\]](#). Visit Deletionpedia.dbatley.com [\[link\]](#) to comb through the bulk deletions of Wikipedia articles that occur every day.

4. Wikia Ever want to look up something, except that it's way too detailed and above the head of Wikipedia's editors, and they refuse to carry it under made-up words (like "fancruft") which Wikipedia "bans" editors from using in public? Wikia contains loads of mini-Wikis (and allows you to create your own) which let you get into the finest detail of your video game level or TV character. Visit Wikia.com [\[link\]](#) and get all the information you could want.

5. Know Your Meme Internet pop-culture phenomena springs up all the time. Very little of it makes it to Wikipedia. The most notable case was the Brian Peppers fiasco [\[link\]](#), where Wikipedia founder Jimbo Wales picked a random date (one year later) to make a final decision for inclusion on the site- this turned out to be a sarcastic joke when "Brian Pepper's Day" came along. For information too relevant to society outside of Wikipedia, visit KnowYourMeme.com. [\[link\]](#)

6. About.com Predating Wikipedia by years, this New York Times-owned site is run by "experts" from the top down. There's lots of articles and links on anything from "80s music" [\[link\]](#) to "Italian food". [\[link\]](#) Visit About.com [\[link\]](#) for information backed by experience.

7. Conservapedia.com If you come from the other side of the spectrum, you might want to checkout Conservapedia. Run by Phyllis Schlafly's son Andrew, the site comes from a religious conservative viewpoint, and is very strict on discerning "quality edits" by a "90/10 rule" and requiring usernames to contain a real name and last initial. Conservapedia was founded due to frustration with Wikipedia's liberal bias finalized in a paper Andrew Schlafly received from a student using BCE/CE dates. It is notable for its articles in support of creationism [\[link to Conservapedia article\]](#) over evolution. [\[link to Conservapedia article\]](#) There are also discussion threads, contests, and seminars. Recently they were in the news for the Conservative Bible Project, an attempt to re-translate the King James Bible with a capitalist and anti-feminist viewpoint. [\[link to Conservapedia article\]](#) Visit Conservapedia.com [\[link\]](#) for a view from the other side.

Disappointed in an effort that could have been...

2010-02-19 8:03:32 PM

For the past several weeks I was working on something - mentioned here before, an attempt at a calculator RPG which doesn't use excessive amounts of memory, unlike other programs which would freeze up at the very beginning of the game.

After weeks of being up at night listening to my favorite night talk radio host [\[link to Phil Hendrie fan site\]](#), I finally got it done. It is a great program, with three character classes, each with their own 6 levels of unique weapons and armor, 13 enemy types plus 5 bosses at the end of the game. All in less than 6K of calculator RAM.

Sounds good? Well, it turns out there was a lot more to that "ERR: MEMORY" I was getting on those games.

[Edsger W. Dijkstra's famous 1975 quote was inserted here]

TI calculators include assembly programming and (in my case) TI-BASIC. If you're familiar with BASIC, you know how completely unlike modern professional programming languages (like C/C++, C#, Java, and even modern MS Visual Basic) it is. Instead of storing data in an object or passing parameters to a function, BASIC is procedural - the code is read in the order of a page, from top to bottom. This result in you hopping all over the place with GOTO commands. Thus it was very difficult to program.

But there's much more.

TI-BASIC has a major fault in it - unlike other BASIC languages, GOTO commands leave behind pointers with each step - causing memory leaks! It wasn't about squeezing variables in on my calculator, it's about a poorly designed programming language leaving allocated memory open - with no means of deallocation as with modern programming languages.

The only solution would be to redesign the whole thing. Having put off writing this program for probably almost a year, this is not likely to be done for a very long time.

All the wasted nights. I could have been screwing around but instead put all my effort into a pointless waste of time. So sad. And the TI Calculator Community is in desperate need of a program like this. We have great, simple hacking-related ones, but not working, complicated medieval ones.

Two things gone

2010-02-19 10:50:50 PM

The UrbanTerror server and the YouTube channel.

Nostalgia Gone Wrong

2010-02-21 2:00:17 AM

Sometimes people listen to music because it reminds them of something. Except (in my case) it has come to a point where I feel miserable, either because I'm not there anymore, or that it came from a more hopeful time.

Right now, it's this game I used to play - the game demands constant play and play with friends. If you ever take a break for a while, suddenly all your friends are way ahead of you. So I never got back into the game.

I found a new game *[link to LinCity-NG]* and started playing it, it was fun, but when you get bored and close the window, you get upset again.

My stomach feels terrible and I barely ate my dinner. It tasted unusually bad. I think I need to sleep.
Later

It's like...

2010-02-21 2:24:43 AM

It's like you "try to feel better", and you think you do (or you want to think you do), but then you get sad again and it just feels weird.

From an era of better weather, which I keep praying that it will return and these horrible Januaries and Februaries will go away forever:

[Music video – Asia "Days Like These"]

1994? 96 maybe?

2010-02-21 2:39:38 AM

Why did it have to change into this? Everyone hates when you're forced to change plans, but drastic shifts in society which work against you, which you try and fight for the next 5 or so years, watching yourself fail over and over again and praying for something to change. They say they are happier, but it doesn't make sense. By making things look a certain way, they make you feel horrible about yourself in the media and sell you "cures" during the commercial breaks. You look at the numbers and statistics and studies, and all show things which seem to show people upset at whatever but refusing to get together and actually do something, which doesn't make any sense at all.

[a lyric from "Sorry Is All I Can Say" by Stage Dolls]

2010-02-28 8:45:37 PM

[An additional quote from the song lyrics, with a music video embedded below]

...and God can she dance...

2010-02-28 9:53:26 PM

[Various videos, linked to or embedded, of live performances of songs by the rock band The Gathering, whose former singer Anneke van Giersbergen is famous for her sexy dancing during performances.]

Dr-Evil-Like Volcano Lair For Sale

2010-03-02 4:35:19 PM

[home in interesting location for sale, quote from entry & link]

Cat Jumps On Woman's Head After She Showers

2010-03-04 9:15:20 PM

[embedded video]

(no subject)

2010-03-06 12:44:19 AM

[lyrics to "I Just Wasn't Made For These Times" by the Beach Boys]

Strict Cold-War-Era Oklahoma Law

2010-03-09 1:31:56 AM

The State of Oklahoma's Title 21. Crimes and Punishments->

Chapter 9 - Offenses Related to Flags->

Section 374 - Display of Red Flag or Emblem of Disloyalty *[link]* reads as follows:

[A felony of up to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to \$1,000 fine for such acts.]

[Title of news article related to hacking of 1024-bit RSA encryption]

2010-03-10 4:58:45 PM

[News article: Modifying the power supply and manipulating voltage into the CPU enabled hacking of this long-trusted security method. RSA encryption is used in HTTPS and other crucial security technologies.]

Well, it was bound to happen someday...

Great Anti-17th-Amendment Article

2010-03-10 6:30:30 PM

Other than the buttons on the side and some links in the blogroll, I don't like to discuss politics on this blog, as I've run political blogs before and it's just frustrating and boring after a while. However, I've just come across a great article, fully cited, on the 17th Amendment and the damage it has done to this country.

I have long been an opponent of the 17th Amendment. Ratified in 1913, this gave the American people direct popular election of Senators. Prior to this, Senators were selected by the states (some states held popular elections), as the Senate was designed to represent the state governments, while the House of Representatives would be democratically-elected representatives of the people. This is stated in the Federalist Papers and apparent when you compare the powers of the Senate to the views of the Founding Fathers (e.g. ratification of treaties). Since the 17th's ratification in 1913, we have had extensive growth in government, often against the will (or budget) of the state governments (more recently REAL ID, No Child Left Behind, etc.) and a repeal would once again make the Senate subservient to the state governments while keeping the House subservient to the people.

It is written by "Epaminondas" of An Anti-Federalist's Blog [\[link\]](#), and has two parts:

Part 1 [\[link\]](#)

Part 2 [\[link\]](#)

The article is long, but a recommended read.

Newegg CPU Recall - An Obvious Prank, Made In China

2010-03-11 11:17:53 PM

You might have heard of computer supplier Newegg accidentally shipping computer builders boxed "processors". [\[link\]](#)

This is no ordinary counterfeit import issue - I found a nice article describing the shipments - the CPU was a piece of lead, with a sticker of a fan attached to a "heatsink" piece of molded plastic. And, of course, the usual translation issues.

Check out the article at PCMag's Gearlog for pictures of this early April Fool's joke. [\[link\]](#)

Vote for my Failblog entries!

2010-03-15 8:12:09 PM

Not familiar with submitting to Failblog, but it says that voting could help it get to the front page (I have managed to get to "the front page" of other sites before):

George Washington Win: *[Link to a picture of various United States coins, with one of those "Barack Obama coins" (stickers placed on overpriced regular coins). An Obama sticker is placed on a George Washington presidential dollar coin, such that Washington looks angry and faces away from Obama.]*

Intellectual Property Fail: *[Link to screenshot of USPTO.gov entry for "EPIC FAIL" in large letters]*

(Post updated 4/20/10 - I must have forgotten to make the links actual links)

Mattel Telekinesis Toy Modified Into Electric Shock Machine

2010-03-18 8:04:44 PM

I just came across this children's toy called "Mattel Mindflex", which floats a ball depending on your amount of concentration:

[embedded video]

These guys turned it into the "Most Painful Toy Hack Ever"

[embedded video]

On a related note, it has come to my attention that YouTube messed with the dimensions of embedded videos. This means that some videos on this blog might have their edge cut off. "I'll work on it." Just double-click to see the full video on YouTube.

Samurai Bloop

2010-03-20 8:25:40 AM

[Embedded video: Shop-At-Home Network advertisement for samurai sword. The salesman slams the sword on the table, after which the blade portion goes flying and hurts the guy. Another salesman reports that medical help is on the way.]

maybe i should

2010-03-24 12:03:03 AM

just watch and read and it might be better

[title of LewRockwell.com blog entry] - AMAZING!

2010-03-24 5:21:31 PM

From YouTube via Lew Rockwell:

[Embedded video: classical music played on harmonica]

Apparently forgot to post this wowness here when it came out...

2010-03-25 2:43:03 AM

"Miss Fortune" *[link]* by Stone Gossard and The Hank Choir:

[Embedded video]

why am i awake

2010-03-25 5:23:31 AM

i was supposed to go to sleep but wound up fixing the youtube issue on my page. i have to mail that thing to the czech republic and i'm listening to great music. i have to go to sleep now that my web site is fixed due to youtube fucking with the resolutions. not that it's bad, the quality is better that way, but it screws up blogs like mine. very tired. i gotta take a look at a stonehenge thing might be better than the mailbox idea. either way the campfire kicks ass and i'm really happy with it, much better than stonehenge or newton new jersey. i think it was newton. somewhere there. but the campfire is better and really looks nice. later

tired, sort of...

2010-03-27 8:06:16 PM

...actually really really tired. I'm not a morning person, but had to wake up at quarter to 9 for a long-overdue haircut. (Almost all of my haircuts are a week or two overdue.) except I fell asleep at probably 5-5:30 about and only had 3-4 hours sleep then. I am in a mental state now where I can act but don't want to put in the amount of thought required to act. Will probably go to sleep early very soon. Later

horseradish cheddar cheese

2010-03-30 8:57:57 PM

i found some in the fridge thinking "wow! what a great idea!" except after i had some i realized it didn't really go together.

[song lyric by the band Slipknot]

2010-03-31 1:45:21 AM

At the suggestion of Computing Minimalists [\[link\]](#), I've been getting used to using the keyboard instead of the mouse in most cases. I was always a Vim [\[link\]](#) person, and started using Vimperator [\[link\]](#) today, and have been using MouseKeys (PDF link [\[to "AbilityNet Factsheet" on MouseKeys\]](#)) and Windows XP's shortcuts [\[link to Microsoft's list of shortcuts\]](#) for a week or two. As you get used to using the keyboard instead of the mouse you start to get faster, though for some things the mouse will always be faster.

[title of article on Obamacare]

2010-04-07 6:29:07 PM

From McClatchy.com[: *Link and quotes from article. Obamacare had just been passed two weeks ago. Insurance companies, doctors, company departments, and others were getting flooded with calls from people, thinking Obamacare created a new government program offering free health insurance, and asking how to sign up for it. In reality there was no new federal insurance plan.*]

Updates

2010-04-07 7:02:08 PM

I haven't written here in a while, been busy. Slackware is back on my machine. I remember someone years ago in a chat room saying that "Slackware eats your soul" and it does. Yet I can't stand the "easier" ones - I always come back to Slackware. Using the 64-bit version, which gives me more memory and will keep me safe from the Year 2038 Bug should my computer last that long

For those of you who don't know, the Year 2038 Bug will affect computers in early-mid 2038 depending on the operating system. Any program on a non-64-bit operating system involving usage of a timer, a clock, dates, or random number generation will face unpredictable problems. At best we will face Y2K-style wraparounds to 1901 (or 1899) and at worst we will face buffer overflows. Without getting into technical details, "buffer overflows" are responsible for such things as (poorly-developed) programs crashing or acting bizarre until you restart your computer.

The Year 2038 Bug is easily solvable with usage of a 64-bit operating system, as Microsoft has been phasing in since Windows Vista and Windows 7 (Windows XP had a 64-bit version as well). However, this isn't feasible for "embedded devices" - for example, a dishwasher powered by a software timer may never stop running, do tasks in the wrong order, or refuse to start, depending on how it was designed.

I also got A Sound Relief, a 2005 concert by The Gathering off eBay. I watched the first disc (there is also a bonus disc I have to watch before leaving feedback on the seller) and can only come up with a simple one-word review: "Wow."

I also ordered A Noise Severe, the heavier "sequel" to the softer material on A Sound Relief, and am awaiting it in the mail.

Lady Gaga = CIA Puppet?

2010-04-08 12:07:24 AM

A conspiracy theorist examines the symbolism in her videos, comparing them to Manchurian candidate triggers in 1960s CIA spook projects (as well as occult symbols present in secret societies).

[Quotes comparing these symbols to those used in MK-ULTRA and Project Monarch programs to activate implanted personalities in victims of these programs. The author also points to symbols associated with the occult.]

[This article, link] is from last August but still gets lots of comments, many of which are interesting. I like this comment by Charles Deckert:

[Deckert speculates that pop stars are made "role models" in order to brainwash teenagers and younger adults, implying subliminal messages underneath studio noise, and suggests the degrading of the arts is designed to weaken the minds of the public with noise and chaos. He then calls on artists to be sincere in their efforts and avoid taking part in the system.]

In the past I have pointed out my theory for the consistent, obvious mocking of moral absolutism found in the media - that a lack of spirituality leads to a hole which can be "filled" by unquenchable purchases of advertised consumer products, rather than dedicating your life to a higher power of some kind, spread through acts of selfless charity. The commenter raises a good point - this may be part of a longer-term effort to instill moral relativism permanently to make way for consistent profits. (I always blamed crappy music on the RIAA's legal-payola-by-proxy *[link to information on this]* and anti-piracy settlements being more profitable than sales.)

I take 3 posts ago partially back

2010-04-08 6:36:41 AM

Vimperator is annoying as fuck and thus risky. There was only one thing I liked about Vimperator *[link]*: the "f" and "F" keys numbering links for keyboard entry as an alternative to the mouse. But with the risk of accidentally searching for something put on the clipboard by mistake is too dangerous. I wish there was an addon which only did that.

Still, I'm really liking the keyboard, especially "Tab", "Alt-Tab", "Ctrl-Tab" and (usually) MouseKeys. Using only the keyboard seems more comfortable to someone who can't multitask for crap.

I think I get the horseradish thing now.

2010-04-09 10:14:40 PM

There's a big difference between "Tabasco sauce" and "hot sauce" - both make foods spicy, but the latter actually has a flavor of its own. As a result Tabasco sauce results in things "not going together" while hot sauce gives things a nice pepper flavor. For the same reason with ramen soup, the chicken flavor (which I don't like compared to the beef and Oriental flavors) often comes in a "picante chicken" variant, which doesn't taste as good as adding pepper to the regular chicken flavor.

The Dancing Kitty Is On To Us...

2010-04-09 10:42:51 PM

(Company name removed :))

[Screenshot of a Web site warning that Adblock cripples the site. I used the GIMP image editing software to black out the spots in the screenshot where the company name was present.]

Vote Online To Save An Elderly Woman's Kitchen

2010-04-09 11:12:21 PM

Hi,

The grandmother of someone close to my friend, who cannot afford to fix her broken kitchen, has enrolled in a "Kitchen Makeover" contest in an attempt to get the financial help she needs. The contest in question may involve a TV appearance as well.

[Description of the woman's life, kitchen, and love of cooking, and how financial issues prevent the kitchen from getting properly repaired.]

You can see photos *[link]* on the site.

The contest, run by Arkansas Online, allows you to vote to give a kitchen a "makeover". You can vote 3 times per day, and voting ends on April 18th.

Please be kind and vote *[link]*.

Thank you!

My Throat Is Sore

2010-04-11 1:39:30 AM

Hopefully if I go to sleep now it won't be sore tomorrow.

guess not

2010-04-11 11:06:27 AM

hopefully my throat will be better soon *[links to above post]*

"Old and Broke" Arkansas Woman Rising in Kitchen Contest - Keep the Votes Coming!

2010-04-13 9:05:33 PM

As mentioned in a previous blog post *[link to previous post]*, the grandmother of someone close to my friend is struggling financially and has enrolled in an Arkansas-based "Kitchen Makeover" contest to repair her kitchen. *[link]* Her rank has more than doubled since the post!

Once again, here is her entry[: *link, repeated below*]

Did you know you could vote 3 times per day? *[link]* And if you were scared off by the phone number requirement in the sign-up form, just fill out your area code (like I did) and the form accepts it! The voting ends April 18th, so try and vote *[link]* 3 times per day!

Many of the kitchens in the contest are in great shape, or just need a different color of paint. This woman needs your support, please vote *[link]*!

the beat "feels" "louder"...

2010-04-13 9:27:43 PM

They say bitrates of MP3 shouldn't matter after a certain point. And while I feel an unexplainable pain in my ears, I am past the age of hearing the so-called "mosquito ringtone". So you'd think it wouldn't matter to a 25-year-old.

However, I can "tell" the difference between "--preset extreme" VBR and crap because the beat "feels" "louder" and not "muffled". Ditto for FLAC, though my Zen won't work with it, so I have to use the MP3s. (Fuck Apple :)

Something weird though. Anything at 160 sounds awful while 128 isn't. It's the weirdest thing that there's an exception to the rule like that.

Sometimes things are fun when you're a kid, but somewhat disturbing when you get older...

2010-04-16 7:51:07 PM

1978 cartoon version of "Puff the Magic Dragon":

(HINT: To watch the video at a larger size or a full screen, click "Google Video" -> "Go to Google Video")

[Embedded video, and quote from movie with drug innuendo]

The Scorpions & Gorky Park Playing Little Richard/Beatles Song

2010-04-20 9:25:26 PM

"Long Tall Sally", Live *[link]* at The Moscow Music Peace Festival, August 1989:

[embedded video]

Official Quotes for the Site

2010-04-21 2:22:36 AM

Years ago I used to put quotes in signatures, over time I stopped doing that, but I'll put some of those quotes in the "About" section and make them "official" for the page.

Here they are BTW: *[quotes from Pope Benedict XVI, Hans Hermann-Hoppe, and Ronald Reagan regarding democracy and morality, tolerance and culture, and America being a free country.]*

Collection of news clips describing Obama as Kenyan-born

2010-04-21 3:26:18 AM

A great WorldNetDaily article *[link]* compiled different news articles, including material from NPR and newspapers from various African countries, describing Obama as being born in Kenya.

The news article I previously featured on this blog *[link to blog post]* is also there.

Rambling Congressman Thinks Islands Can Tip Over - No Joke

2010-04-22 11:01:52 PM

Seriously. This isn't a joke:

[Embedded video featuring Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) concerned with the possibility of the island of Guam "tipping over" if too many soldiers were placed on it]

Two new games added to "Download Library"

2010-04-27 3:09:47 AM

I have added two freeware games to the Download Library *[link]* section above, ScopaFree (an implementation of the Italian card game Scopa) and TrackWords (a Boggle-style game). The developer's home page was hosted on Geocities and the files were hosted on Winsite, both of which have shut down.

Go to the "Download Library" tab above *[link]* and download ScopaFree and TrackWords.

[regarding Goldman Sachs]

2010-04-29 3:58:02 PM

From "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" via Repeal the 17th Amendment [\[link\]](#):

[Embedded video. The video for this is now hidden, and I do not remember the details of this video other than it was humorous, possibly included footage of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", and had something to do with the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations, Goldman Sachs, the 2008 financial crisis, and use of the word "duty".]

Interesting statement on racism and political activism

2010-04-30 3:57:23 PM

Angel Roberson of HipHopRepublican.com [\[link\]](#) wrote a brief pro-GOP article [\[link to article on why black Americans are going back to the Republican Party\]](#). Nothing special, in fact kinda misleading, as she conveniently left out the post-FDR switching of ideologies (a commenter noted this). However, Roberson left a comment on the article which interested me a lot:

[A quote from the article described Roberson's involvement as the youngest member of the Little Rock Black Caucus and how they weren't interested in recruiting.]

[What followed in the post comments was a discussion between me, a socialist named Allen Lawrence, and the author Angel Roberson. I had assumed Roberson was referring to people along the lines of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton complaining about racism rather than taking action. In reality she was referring to the Little Rock Black Caucus not welcoming her ideas on the grounds that they wouldn't work and complaining about problems they had in the past, and how they were only convinced when she did them herself.]

Beatle Tribute Band "Fab Faux" Performs Abbey Road B-Side Live On Howard Stern (Sirius)

2010-05-01 12:46:24 AM

From Sirius/Howard Stern via Vimeo:

[description & embedded video]

makes me feel very ill tonight...

2010-05-02 4:38:50 AM

my stomach hurts everytime i hear a song i listened to back then, every time i think of those abandoned papers in the other room and the radio show and software associated with it, even an old show returned and got me upset too. i can try again, but there is a catch - not only time, stress, and hundreds (or thousands) of dollars, but the fact that the more you wait it gets more expensive and the worse the opportunities are.

i often complain about shifting cultural values since 1997, as i reject their superficial nature, but as i get older i can see a more extreme version of a small part of them emerging, not that the extremism is bad, but the fact that i've dedicated about 5 years of my life to catching up and it frightens me to even consider the possibility that due to my age or financial status i missed too many boats and cannot possibly catch up to what exists now (or at least something equivalent or similar). it gets me very upset and frightens me and makes my stomach feel weird.

papers. albany. rush.

This Site on a Mobile Phone

2010-05-02 11:46:17 PM

A friend of my sister's tonight had what I think was a Blackberry, or something similar with a keypad and Internet access. As I always wondered how difficult it would look, she told me that it worked on certain major sites like Gmail, Amazon, etc., or sites designed for mobile phones, with it being possibly screwed up on others. So I asked her to show me how www.xcopfly.com (this front page) would look.

I didn't look at any of the links above, or click on any tags or, or explore the page at all - I just asked her to scroll down. Embedded videos were missing, as were all pictures (excluding the Web buttons on the side). The design of the page, including the X-Cop Fly logo, were also missing giving a simple "1996" blue-on-white page. Written portions, however, were visible, though we didn't click on any links.

The protest ended last night...

2010-05-07 8:32:50 PM

...and while Islam will continue to be forced via theocracy, violence, and censorship, as it has for centuries, hopefully my protest will make those who care about freedom aware of this direct threat on our lives and liberties, willing to ignore "political correctness" and other forms of left-wing censorship, and that, as with any other intervention into our lives and the lives of those we love, we will resist any and all forced implementation of religion, including Islam, which mandates such theocracy regardless of peaceful or violent means of attaining it.

[Due to several issues at the time, including the trial of Geert Wilders for "hate speech" and a terrorist threat against the creators of the show South Park, I had decided to embed the movie Fitna at the end of every blog post for a period of time, as well as participate in a Facebook campaign called "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" which ended on May 20th, 2010. (My contribution, a crude sketch of a modern-day Muhammad as a used car salesman advertising the Koran on TV, was only present in one of the "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" Facebook groups and was not posted to my blog.)

Fast forward a few months. I had become a regular user of the DALnet IRC network, most popular in Afghanistan southeast through Australia, and held operator positions in several channels. I decided it would be best to get rid of the embedded Fitna from these posts (which had been a dead link for a long time by that point) and some of the "harsher" statements from my blog regarding my opposition to Islam and the Koran. These deleted posts can be assumed lost in history.]

I hate this.

2010-05-13 1:56:46 AM

They don't even give any reasoning anymore behind their unwelcome infringements on your right to free speech. I'm not just talking about the government - I'm talking about every aspect of your personal life.

31337 Scr33nsh0t...

2010-05-13 2:57:21 AM

Slackware, XFCE, XChat, GIMP, watching cartoons on a TV tuner card - all at 20 to 3 in the morning!

Can't get any more l33t than that!!!

[thumbnail linked to the image was embedded here]

Muslim Dr. Evil

2010-05-15 10:26:01 PM

From a Facebook group *[probably one of the "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" groups]* (click for full picture):

[image is a parody of the Austin Powers movies, featuring Jyllands-Posten Muhammad as Mini-Me]

I was going to...

2010-05-16 12:15:42 AM

My parents are doing some yard work and needed to buy stuff at Home Depot tonight. I was supposed to stay at home and wait to bid on an eBay item 5 minutes before the auction ends, but I decided to be nice and help them lift stuff. I didn't think it would be that long, but I forgot about the auction (and forgot whether I could have gone inside and just made it) and missed the auction. No big deal, it's just a CD and in fact a better packaging is available in an auction tomorrow, and I'm glad to have helped out on a nice windy spring evening :)

Tutorial: Check if the CD You Won off eBay is a Bootleg Using ImgBurn

2010-05-18 1:06:40 AM

I'm an eBay addict [[link to eBay](#)], and if you are too, you know it's very easy to buy used and cheap CDs. You can even get rare and out-of-print CDs, some obscure ones go for over \$100!

However, often times people take advantage of the rarity of some CDs to sell unsuspecting (or, sometimes, desperate) people bootlegs. Often they are marketed as "(insert country here) Import" to increase the perceived rarity.

There is this one seller who operates under various names, usually Retrospect Records, but also Vegas CDs, Rock-it Records, or Adrian (sometimes Sam) McCaslin. He gets consistently high ratings on eBay, yet a Google search will prove his "metal/AOR reissue label" status illegitimate. Negative feedback exposing McCaslin results in negative feedback for you, with a rude tone, and a block from his future auctions. Check this thread at another label's forum [[link](#)] to see VegasCDs, a supposed lawyer with supposed knowledge of Russian export laws, in action - it's really funny until he admits his faults.

Without doing appropriate research, I bought an "Italian import" of Lionheart, a 1984 out-of-print Iron Maiden side-project-of-sorts. I thought his username, which is repeatedly changed and at the time was something like "vegascds", referred to a record store or eBay vendor based in Vegas. Instead, I got this:

(Click the thumbnails to see the full picture. Sorry for the blurriness, as I wasn't concerned with staying still)

[album front cover]

Seems fine...

[album back cover]

This seems strange, "2005 Rock-It" without a copyright notice, and a phony UPC code which apparently belongs to "Perfection in Pain" by death metal band Corporation 187. [[link](#)]

But the most obvious indicator:

[Open CD case featuring obviously-LightScribed disc]

Ummm.... yeah.

The audio on this CD was pretty low in quality, more evidence of a bootleg.

Fortunately we have ImgBurn, a "for advanced users only" software program (freeware) designed for burning ISO files to CD or DVD.

Here is a partial screenshot of the program:

[main screen of ImgBurn]

Before we continue, it is important to note that there is a difference between CD-Rs and "real" CDs. Audio CDs and CD-ROMs are pressed in a factory, not in a CD/DVD-RW drive.

Click on the button entitled "Discovery":

[close-up of "Discovery" button]

Make sure your CD is in the drive listed in the drop-down list highlighted in this picture, and note what comes after "Current Profile:". I have circled the proof that this CD is a CD-R bootleg:

[Current Profile: CD-R]

Proof this "rare Italian import" is a fake.

Now we will start with a real CD, purchased from a physical store sometime between 10-15 years ago. It's the Foo Fighters' self-titled album from 1995:

[open CD case showing legitimate commercial CD]

Now see what shows up in ImgBurn after I take out the Lionheart CD-R bootleg and replace it with the Foo Fighters CD:

[Current Profile: CD-ROM]

I hope this has been informative. I think I'm gonna start doing similar instructional posts under a tag called "tutorial".

very fun day

2010-05-20 8:15:26 PM

very nice day to go fishing at the lake. didn't catch any fish but i caught a clam. took me forever to get the hook out of him.

Blogger Code

2010-05-20 11:15:25 PM

I remembered something from a long time ago called "Blogger Code" *[link to original]*, apparently it was updated since then *[link to updated "Blogger Code 2.0"]* with more and modern features.

Here is the older version, a single line, no picture *[linked text of my original Blogger Code results]*:
B4 d t+ k+ s u-- f- i- o x e- l+ c+ *[the information represented here is obsolete as of the date of this book's publication]*

Here is the updated version *[linked text of my Blogger Code 2.0 results inside a "badge" picture]*:
B4 D T+ K+ S F- I- O X E- L+ C+ Y1 R-- W+ P+ M1 N H *[the information represented here is obsolete as of the date of this book's publication]*

The updated version is also in a tiny, unlabeled box on the sidebar.

[As of the date of this book's publication, my Blogger Code 2.0 is: B6 D T+ K+ S F- I- O++ X E- L+ C+ Y1 R-- W P+ M1 N H]

Fox News Subliminal Message

2010-05-22 12:06:40 AM

[embedded video showcases possible subliminal message supporting John McCain in the 2008 Election]

New quizzes from Blogthings

2010-05-22 4:28:42 PM

[Results from several quizzes – my late bedtime suggests I'm a strange, creative, and independent person; another quiz said I'm an artistic person; that I love the visual nature of spring; that I am compassionate; that I am brilliant and talented; that I am most passionate about the Biblical Commandment "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor"; and that I have an active imagination.]

Evil people may have money, power, possessions, wealth, votes, fame, media appearances, fancy homes and cars, and friends in high places...

2010-05-22 4:35:45 PM

...but the one thing they don't have, is a soul.

xcopfly.com: Censored In Pakistan!

2010-05-23 3:35:26 AM

When I heard that Pakistan had blocked access to 800+ sites *[link]* as a reaction to the Everyone Draw Muhammad Day campaigns, I was just curious as to whether my site was affected, given the recent anti-Islam statements. *[for important information, see this book's entry for the 5/7/2010 post entitled "The protest ended last night..."]*

So I decided to find a proxy server based in Pakistan *[link]*, plug the settings into Firefox and check things out. Google loaded just fine, but YouTube was replaced with an "Access Denied" page, and Facebook refused to load.

Another site refused to load – TheReligionOfPeace.com *[link]*, an anti-Islamic Web site notable for citing violent portions of the Quran and keeping track of terrorist attacks since 9/11. They make a counter of terrorist attacks available as a small Web graphic, and if you're not in Pakistan you can see that counter right on the sidebar of xcopfly.com!

So xcopfly.com *[link]* is officially censored in Pakistan!

Quizzes

2010-05-26 7:09:38 PM

[Results of two Blogthings quizzes: one suggests I'm dynamic, energetic, heroic, and spirited, like a creek; one suggests I'm neurotic.]

Mobile Phones

2010-05-26 8:11:52 PM

From The Telegraph *[link]*:

[1922 British silent film of the world's first "mobile phone", making use of a fire hydrant and an umbrella for the antenna.]

In other news, last week I set up my site to support, with full graphics, CSSv1-only browsers, handheld devices, and TVs, using an alternate stylesheet. The only difference is that the alternate stylesheet lacks the pretty shading in the menu bar. (I was not about to give that up, so I created an alternate stylesheet.)

The alternate stylesheet is the default for handheld devices and TVs. If you're on a computer and want to take a peek, or have a very old browser and want the site to work better, from selecting "Mobile/TV/Old Browser" in your page styles menu (Firefox has it under View->Page Style and IE has View->Style)

There are two "Valid CSS!" buttons on the side now - one for each stylesheet, both of which validate to the standards labeled.

Slackware 13.1 doesn't play nice with Audacious or my wireless card. I'll be back...

The Broadcast That Changed America

2010-05-26 8:22:39 PM

From Lew Rockwell *[link]*:

[Embedded video: The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, February 9, 1964]

(I always thought they said "I Get High" not *[actual lyrics]*...)

Geeks, Goths, Emos, Jocks, and....Werewolves?

2010-05-27 4:34:41 PM

From YouTube *[link]*:

[video of KENS-TV (San Antonio, TX) report of the latest teen clique, where they dress and act like werewolves in "packs".]

RIP, Paul Gray

2010-05-28 8:18:11 PM

[Videos from the nu-metal band Slipknot, whose members include Paul Gray, recently deceased.]

Holiday weekend

2010-05-30 7:13:44 PM

Great weather out. Went for a walk. Just bought the new STP album, should be neat. Yesterday was nice too. Went out with a pad of paper and sketched a bit before it started to rain.

Some more quizzes for you:

[Results of quizzes suggest I am a creative and logical person]

I'm doing a lot more quizzes now, doesn't mean I'm out of ideas, just always liked doing them, and would like to do more. (Maybe I'll up my "Survey Whore" on the Blogger Code to 50% someday :)

I'm not getting into politics as that just gets me very angry, blogging about the same stuff that just pisses me off, and after a while writing the same angry commentary. I've done it before, had a political blog for a year which was quoted by other news sites once or twice. Not a fun time.

Tutorial: How To Fight Debt Collectors

2010-05-30 8:08:42 PM

There was that recent story in the news about the Verizon debt collector threatening to blow up someone's house *[link]*.

(NOTE: I don't know about this industry, am not a lawyer, or whether this works in all cases. Use this **suggestion** at your own risk.)

A month ago, I was receiving calls from debt collectors who were looking for someone I never heard of. I told them "Wrong number" several times, and my cell phone answering machine stated my correct first name and last initial, but was getting these "Please call us by (this time), it's an urgent matter" message every other day.

I was too afraid to call back, thinking it was a Nigerian scam or something. When I found out who they were, I called them, all pissed off and went on a rant to them about having the wrong number. But I said the key word - "cell phone". While the rant continued, they kept asking "So this is a cell phone?" Finally I calmed down and realized what they were asking. I told them it was a cell phone and they immediately said "Bye" and hung up, never to call again.

(Though it's pretty easy for someone to find out *[link to a site (telcodata.us) where you can search for information on area codes and/or exchanges]* if an exchange is for cellular or landline...)

UPDATE [2010-10-20 3:23 PM]: A few months later I got the same calls again, and did the same thing and stopped.

too stressed out to sleep

2010-06-02 4:53:02 AM

we built a fortress of freedom
but only a few did not give it away
we watch as they destroy and reject
everything they once embraced
everything they built
that fortress on

everything they do is ok
no matter who's behind it
everything they do is ok
even with a crooked history
everything they do is ok
even if they were caught last week
everything they do is ok
they don't protest
only we protest

slowly we lose everything we love
everything we valued and built
everything that inspired the building of it
it's like it's completely wiped from their memory
completely ignored, as they go along with it
they don't give any reason or explanation
for what they are doing
it doesn't make any sense
it's weird as fuck

meanwhile i myself have become a slave
and there's no getting out
i tried something but like everything else it will probably fail

On Monday...

2010-06-04 4:30:09 PM

I start an art workshop at the local community college. I've been taking private lessons with a friend for almost a year now, you may notice the logo at the top, it was painted with pastel - there used to be a close-up photo of a gnat, but it grossed out some of my friends. The class is on watercolor (in a tube, not the stuff from when we were little) - haven't worked with that yet.

Meanwhile, here are some quizzes:

[Blogthings quizzes – one quiz states I like old-fashioned names, that I tend to focus on the "why" of things, and that I am a somewhat agreeable person.]

I don't care what anyone says, unless there's malware involved, scrapers and SEO comment services are NOT spam

2010-06-04 8:37:08 PM

In fact, like any other legitimate comment on your blog, they're a small amount of free SEO for *you* as well. Sites with malware or advertising a product or service do not count - these *are* spam.

Great picture I found

2010-06-04 11:25:52 PM

[supporting "SB 1070", the State of Arizona's enforcement of poorly-enforced federal immigration law]

Palindrome Video

2010-06-05 9:31:00 AM

I received this video, called "Lost Generation" *[link]*, in an e-mail chain letter the other day:

[embedded video is a pessimistic poem about Generation Y's apathy, which is also a palindrome that, when the poem is reversed, suggests it is possible to change the world]

Beautiful song by a great band, but you do NOT want it stuck in your head before spending the evening at a barbecue!

2010-06-05 10:26:07 PM

[Embedded video – live performance by The Gathering of "In Motion #1"]

Tonight's Quiz

2010-06-07 10:42:22 PM

[Suggests that I had a great day]

Funny YouTube Review of "Action 52" Game

2010-06-08 10:31:27 PM

In 1990, a game was released for the Sega Genesis called "Action 52", a series of 52 arcade games which were priced as "52 games at a discount" rather than the price of a single cartridge.

The game consisted of simple arcade-style jump-and-shoot games with goofy graphics. Not a bad idea, but definitely not worth \$199, regardless of inflation or the existence of Shockwave Flash.

More info here. *[link to Gamespy article]*

(I was a Super NES kid, not a Sega one, and didn't own a SNES until two-three years later, so I didn't fall victim to this, fortunately)

Also, as this funny video review points out, many of the games could not be continued due to inability of the character to jump or other issues caused by poor design.

Watch: *[link]*

[Embedded: "The Worst Game Ever Made: Part 2"]

Funny "Action 52" Review - The other two parts

2010-06-09 10:14:40 PM

There were actually 3 parts to the review I posted yesterday, I only put up Part 2.

Here are all 3. Apparently Warner fucks are roughing up minors again, so #3 might get "muted" in its entirety for a Whitesnake clip in the credits (it is muted on other usernames).

(Click here for the previous post - contains details on the game) *[link to previous blog post]*

[Three videos embedded]

Two quizzes & a YouTube prank

2010-06-10 9:57:07 PM

[Two Blogthings quizzes suggest I am creative and thoughtful. A prank phone call hosted on YouTube is also embedded here.]

Deleted my Facebook account...

2010-06-13 5:06:56 PM

All of it. Photos, likes, "friends", groups, info, even my name. Then I deleted (not deactivated) the account. In other words, everything I could get rid of, I did. Now it's gone. I feel a sort of emptiness inside, though I'm sure it'll pass as it didn't make a damn difference. It's like a new world order, and an old world order, both at the same time...

trying to ruin my new hope and insult my friends? I don't think so...

2010-06-15 8:58:09 PM

Class dismissed.

Weird blog issue two nights ago...

2010-06-17 3:18:46 PM

For some reason the other night, and only the other night, "Previous Entries" and "Next Entries" had disappeared from every page in the blog. No matter where I put it in the page, it wasn't showing up. I went into Freenode *[link]* #wordpress and they couldn't help me either.

The next day, everything was back, visible, working and fine.

Weird.

[Embedded Blogthings quizzes suggest I am an afternoon/evening/night person, love summer, and have a comforting home]

The President of the United States Making Fun of the Bible

2010-06-20 9:23:40 PM

A highly disturbing speech by an American President, posted on YouTube in August 2008, via Vision to America *[link]*:

[Disturbing embedded video of then-Senator Barack Hussein Obama, doing what resembles a stand-up routine making fun of the Sermon on the Mount and the more extreme punishments in the Mosaic Law]

so now i've reached the point of near-scientific proof, it's not just me...

2010-06-22 3:51:46 PM

terrible. why? it doesn't make sense! it shouldn't make sense, something's seriously wrong with this picture. what's going on here? :(it surely can't be this way forever! scientifically! it's impossible! and if it is, the world will never be the same...

part 2 of...

2010-06-22 4:03:36 PM

[Blogthings quiz suggests I value love, relationships, and friendships]

"Blogs vs. Twitter & Facebook" Arguments, As Applied to the Bill of Rights

2010-06-23 6:03:33 PM

There have been a lot of posts (and political lobbying) within the past few years by a dying Media 1.0 establishment and a gullible public to discourage the creation and reading of blogs, this time by encouraging Twitter and Facebook as *replacements* for blogs. Examples: 1 2 3 4 *[sources are both the mainstream media as well as other blogs]*

Rather than go on a standard political rant about this issue like any other blogger would, I thought I'd apply this to each amendment in the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution.

(Note that the content in this article may not apply to blogs hosted on major "community" sites such as Google and Myspace. Since they are run by major corporations, with Myspace owned by the parent company of Fox News, they may be subject to the same/similar issues as Twitter and Facebook.)

1st Amendment: No Establishment of Religion (basis for "Separation of Church and State"), Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, Peaceful Assembly, Right to Petition the Government:

Blogs have empowered the people more than ever, as they expose media bias and blackouts, political scandals, and more corruption you would never find out about on TV or radio. Information about diverse religions and philosophy available on the Internet is discouraging many parents from vaccinating their children by temporarily changing their religion or claiming an exemption *[link]*. Some religious issues reported by Media 1.0, such as sexual abuse issues in the Catholic Church, have been subject to further debate on blogs - for example, the role of the vow of celibacy required by most priests. Material critical of Islam, such as the movie Fitna *[IMDB link]* and depictions of Muhammad, freely spreads through blogs, causing Islamic theocracies to play whack-a-mole, banning entire Web sites and threaten to execute their owners *[link – the Pakistani government had placed a fatwa on Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and others over the infamous "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" (5/20/2010)]*. As a means of news, blogs containing audio and video, such as embedded material uploaded onto YouTube, have enabled individuals to "broadcast", regardless

of archaic laws. Broadcast licensing was originally designed to prevent interference according to issues not present in the age of GPS, satellites, digital transmissions, and "simulcasting" (the ability to put multiple channels in a single frequency, such as with Digital TV and HD Radio). However, they eventually became a means of media control. It took many media blackouts for obscure anti-establishment politician Ron Paul to gain media exposure in 2008, and in the 2004 Democratic primaries an antitrust-minded man named Howard Dean was mocked out of the race over a pep rally. Many grassroots campaigns, spread via blogs, have been highly successful. The Internet has made it easy to send e-mails and faxes to Congressmen and -women, as well as make laws and transcripts available for full viewing.

What gives blogs the advantage with all of this over Twitter or Facebook is the fact that if you own or lease the hardware running your site, you have much more freedom, since the less contracts there are, and the more privacy rights you have (Facebook is notorious for a mysterious "selling out" on the importance of privacy rights some time ago), the freer you are.

2nd Amendment: Right to Bear Arms:

In a world of liberal and neo"conservative" media, true conservatives and libertarians have grown due to blogs. Efforts such as the "Ron Paul Revolution" presidential campaign of 2008, the successor group Campaign for Liberty, and Tea Party protests owe the Internet their success. In opposition to these efforts, bog-standard left-wing charges of "violent racists" and "angry white men" fly at innocent Republicans who now have a new opportunity to speak their mind. And unlike Twitter and Facebook, which respond to any one complaint by banning the user or material immediately, so-called "hate speech" and "harassment" accusations by the left-wing establishment can be resolved more easily and fairly with a hosting provider, even if similar bans are in their contracts.

3rd Amendment: No Quartering of Soldiers:

Many blogs, such as the anarcho-capitalist LewRockwell.com *[link]* and Justin Raimondo's Antiwar.com *[link]*, frequently criticize wars, foreign policy measures, anti-terrorism laws, and the actions of the US military (in fact, LRC is banned from offices of US intelligence agencies *[link]*). No longer are complaints about the military or government limited to our minds or homes – while none of us, whether criminal or peaceful, are anonymous to authorities in any way, blog pseudonyms enable us to publish all kinds of crazy ideological arguments without our families and friends even knowing. Again, Facebook and Twitter will shut anything "hate speech" down immediately.

4th Amendment: Search & Seizure, Warrants, Right to Privacy:

The establishment has grown very successful in defeating the protections of this amendment. Laws such as the Patriot Act have eroded this right, and social networks and search engines have become goldmines for both private industry and government agencies. Facebook and Twitter are no exception - those sites store backups of your actions even if you delete your account. Web hosts have their own privacy policies and law enforcement measures which may be much less invasive. Other laws, such as the Digital Millenium Copyright Act *[link to the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)'s page on DMCA-related issues]*, have granted these same broad powers to copyright holders, though in some cases they are used for purpose of censorship *[link to EFF press release regarding OPG v. Diebold lawsuit, where a manufacturer of electronic voting machines (Diebold) had attempted to take down leaked material which pointed out the insecurity of their centralized system and suggested election rigging and disrespect for democracy by the company. Diebold lost the case.]* or forming trust-like "holding" organizations *[link to EFF's page on Trusted-Computing-related issues]* rather than copyright infringement. And while Media 1.0 will censor or twist anything that reflects badly upon its own industry (or any other industry for that matter *[link to news story on failed attempts to advertise "Buy Nothing Day"*

on Canadian TV]), and Facebook has "mysteriously" reversed its stance on privacy rights recently, blogs such as Slashdot *[link]* have risen to fill in the blanks.

5th Amendment: No Double Jeopardy, No Self-Incrimination, Right to Life, Liberty, and Property, Eminent Domain:

6th Amendment: Right to a Speedy Trial, Nature of Trials:

7th Amendment: Right to Trial By Jury:

Acts which threaten the establishment have led to intelligence agencies and copyright holders to engage in dealmaking which is slowly trending towards entire leasing of your machine. Blogs have been reporting these efforts by Microsoft, Apple, the MAFIAA *[link to "mafiaa.org", satirical prank site claiming the RIAA and MPAA had merged to form the "Music and Film Industry Association of America". Despite the original satirical intent, "MAFIAA" has since become jargon for the above-the-law tactics, lawsuits, and lobbying often used by the RIAA and MPAA]*, and others, as well as reporting hacker attacks on remotely-stored personal data, which is sometimes marketed as "cloud computing". After eminent domain laws were extremely loosened to allow seizure of property by Wal-Mart *[link - information on the consequences of Kelo v. City of New London]*, bloggers not only reported the story, but debated the consequences. Trial by jury is being threatened through the expansion of forced arbitration, mandated by a federal law irreversible by states, including to Web sites about cartoon characters *[link to Dilbert.com's TOS]*, rapists *[link - arbitration prevented a rape victim from suing Halliburton because she signed an arbitration clause upon employment]*, neglectful murdering nursing homes *[link to information on an elderly woman, who died by walking out of a nursing home in the cold, and the family couldn't sue because they signed an arbitration clause prior to placing the woman in the nursing home]*, and consumer electronics purchases *[link to Dell's contract]*, but people are getting together and fighting the law *[link to the Fair Arbitration Now Coalition, consisting of several nonprofits ranging from the AFL-CIO to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America]*, and some arbitration companies have left consumer dispute markets *[link to a news story]*. The banking industry's role in the current recession, reported by bloggers with an anti-establishment bias, has helped with this issue as well.

8th Amendment: No Cruel or Unusual Punishment:

Information regarding foreign wars have been reported by bloggers, with Media 1.0 dishonesty even being videotaped *[link to an 8/30/2009 X-Cop Fly Co. blog post called "Desert Storm: Stoned CNN Anchors Having Fun on the Set of 'Saudi Arabian Hotel'", available in The Fly Papers: Volume I (All of 2009)]*. Torture and other events at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo would be easy to hide if blogs didn't exist, and there would be less questioning the claims made by the President about national security and foreign dictators. The use of pseudonyms have encouraged people to discuss and debate the Israeli lobby without fear of being publicly labeled an anti-Semite, even if they secretly are one.

9th Amendment: Rights Not Limited to Constitution:

As rights such as copyright protection have been broadly expanded in length and scope, bloggers have been making use of Creative Commons licenses *[link]* to waive such rights for the benefit of themselves and others. This even includes musicians who rely on a cult following and touring, such as Nine Inch Nails *[link to official site]* and Radiohead *[link to official site]*, who have left major labels and still kept their fans. Some have gone even further and released material entirely into the public domain, as controversial creationist figure Kent Hovind once did *[link to news article with information on this]*. I myself have released much of this blog's content into the public domain *[link to the area on the site explaining what is and isn't copyrighted]*.

10th Amendment: States' Rights, Other Rights Belong to States & People:

Due to dissatisfaction with the establishment, fueled by blogs and the Tea Party movement, many libertarians have started a "Tenther" movement *[link to the Tenth Amendment Center]*, proposing

that the US become a confederacy where states have nullification rights over an ever-expanding federal government. Many want to repeal other Constitutional amendments associated with infringing on states' rights, including parts of the 14th (birthright citizenship, bill of rights applies to states), the 16th (direct federal income tax), and the 17th (senate popularly elected like the house is, something I want to see repealed). Twitter and Facebook, once again, will shut down anything after somebody points the race card.

27th Amendment: Limiting Congressional Pay: (part of original Bill of Rights, but not ratified until 1992)

Bloggers have been able to monitor Congress like never before, including not only laws and transcripts in their entirety, but also exposing financial and sexual scandals, ties to various lobbies, and other forms of corruption Media 1.0 would never report, and would be extremely difficult to spread via Twitter.

But when it involves bad medical advice...

2010-06-24 10:23:29 PM

...then it is spam.

I was really unhappy to see, this afternoon, that someone had linked to my previous blog entry *[link to previous post]* and written a commentary themselves, which I could only read a half a paragraph, since the user shut their blog down on the same day *[dead link placed here]*. No Internet Archive either. I guess it's forever lost in history...

More like "Pisses Me Off"

2010-06-27 7:44:07 PM

[Blogthings quiz suggests that rain makes me sleepy]

My Blog's 1st Birthday!

2010-06-30 1:39:07 AM

Yes, this marks the first year anniversary of this blog!

On June 30th, 2009, 2:21:01 AM EDT, the first post to the "Azz Pizz Institute" blog was made. *[link to this post, which was the standard WordPress "Hello World" post when you set up a blog]* This predecessor to the "X-Cop Fly Company", this blog was named after an inside joke. It was a personal journal coming from an immature humor perspective - a major step "down" from my past political blogs, such as "Life, Liberty, and Property" (a Blogspot blog which lasted a very long time and was once cited by a minor news source). At that time, "Azz Pizz Institute" was hosted on a subdomain of a file archive (which is currently a parked domain redirecting to xcopfly.com *[link]*).

On July 27th, 2009, 5:02:53 AM EDT, a post entitled "Something Big Is Coming To A School Near You..." [*link to this post*] was made.

On July 28th, 2009, 5:58:14 AM EDT, a post revealed [*link to this post, entitled "Yes, you saw right, it's a brand new blog!"*] the purchase of a domain name and work on a new site.

On August 7th, 2009, 2:04:25 AM EDT, xcopfly.com was revealed to the public [*link to this post, entitled "Yes, you saw right, it's a brand new blog!"*] - "The X-Cop Fly Company", another inside joke, would both supplant "The Azz Pizz Institute" as well as be a pseudonym to develop software for the TI Calculator (later canceled after lack of interest, the inefficiency of the TI-BASIC programming language, and disgust over legal actions taken by Texas Instruments.)

On August 25th, 2009, 10:52:31 AM EDT [*link to this post, entitled "Last night's maintenance / site now complies with standards for the disabled"*], an intention to obsessively and unnecessarily have xcopfly.com comply with all sorts of Web standards was announced, and changes were made for this purpose.

On November 13th, 2009, 10:42:20 PM EST [*link to this post, entitled "New UrbanTerror Server Up"*], a post was made announcing an X-Cop Fly Company-owned server for the game UrbanTerror. (It was canceled later due to lack of use.)

On January 28th, 2010, 4:10:56 AM EST, I responded to comments of the "gross" photo of a brown gnat - by painting one myself! [*link to this post, entitled "Just swatted the fly!"*] Made with pastels and charcoal pencil, the logo exists on the top right corner of xcopfly.com to this day.

On May 18th, 2010, 5:35:54 AM EDT, I took a brave, countercultural, and definitely unusual stance on Internet copyright licensing issues [*link to the area on the site explaining what is and isn't copyrighted. See notes in "Introduction" regarding public domain and CC0.*]. With my other option being special-interest-controlled legal traps like Creative Commons [*I was unaware of the details of CC0 at the time, just that it existed and that their standard licenses were a "special-interest-controlled legal trap" as I put it*], I released most of this blog's text content into the public domain! [*link to the area on the site explaining what is and isn't copyrighted. See notes in "Introduction" regarding public domain and CC0.*]

On May 26th, 2010, 8:11:52 PM EDT, a separate stylesheet was created for xcopfly.com for compatibility [*link to this post, entitled "Mobile Phones"*] with mobile devices, TVs, and older browsers.

Thank you all for reading xcopfly.com!

[The bold text above was not bold in the original blog post, it was only done in this book to make things easier to read. All 2009 posts are available in The Fly Papers: Volume I (All of 2009)]

[1,500 layoffs occurred at Western PA (Pittsburgh area) hospital due to Obamacare]

2010-06-30 5:50:19 PM

From the Charleston (WV) Daily Mail: *[linked to article, with portions quoted below. Panic over Obamacare, combined with low hospital admissions, resulted in the consolidation of two hospitals, and up to 1,500 jobs were lost in the process.]*

red

2010-06-30 7:58:28 PM

[Blogthings quiz suggests I can benefit from some "red", implicitly defined as energy, passion, and activity]

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